GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4637
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2002
EDUCATION AND CARE AS FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT FOR CHILDREN
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from various social organisations, groups etc.,for making education and care a fundamental right for children below 6 years of age as well unlike the provision in the Constitution (93r

(d) Amendment Bill; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. There have been demands from some quarters to include the 0-6 age group in the Fundamental Right along with free and compulsory education for children in the age group of 6-14 years.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee which considered the Constitution (Eighty-Third Amendment) Bill, 1997 also looked into the demand to include the age group 0-6 years and concluded that due to various practical difficulties, the provision of Fundamental Right to Education be allowed to only 6-14 age group and that Article 45 may be retained in the Constitution to cater to the 0-6 age group.

Keeping in view the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, Article 45 of the Constitution was redrafted to say that the State shall endeavour to provide Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for children until they complete the age of 6 years and the provision was included in the Constitution (Ninety-Third Amendment) Bill, 2001